

I recently attended an insightful program led by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. The program dealt with American media. I was distraught, as was most of the audience, to hear former editors of both Time and Newsweek tell us that we were better off receiving factual (not spun) news from the British press. We were given example after example after example of "what happened" and "what we reported." Often, the spin was so clear, I can't believe I was led down another path. Please assuage our fears. Please don't allow a group like Sinclair Broadcasting to use their funds to air slanted programs whose only intention is to mislead or sway the public.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.